



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **SHAW HONORED WITH EPA/CARE INNOVATIONS IN CARPET RECYCLING AWARD**

Dalton, Georgia – Shaw Industries, Inc. has been recognized by the EPA and the Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE) with the EPA/CARE Innovations in Carpet Recycling Award for its Evergreen Nylon Recycling facility and for the company’s leadership in post-consumer carpet recycling. The award is given annually to an organization, team or individual that has pursued and demonstrated innovations or processes that positively impact carpet recycling.

“Shaw is honored to be recognized for its commitment to innovative carpet recycling and reclamation practices through its Evergreen facility,” said Rick Ramirez, Shaw vice president of sustainable affairs. “Evergreen is a strong example of Shaw’s commitment to Sustainability Through Innovation™ – and we are dedicated to continuing the expansion of our carpet recycling efforts through this and other processes.”

Shaw has reclaimed and recycled more than 225 million pounds of post consumer carpet since Evergreen’s opening in 2007, making Shaw the largest contributor to the CARE effort. More than 187 million of those pounds were recycled through Evergreen.

“Shaw’s investment and innovation at Evergreen represents huge steps forward for the carpet industry as a whole,” said Georgina Sikorski, Carpet America Recovery Effort Executive Director. “Shaw has played a significant leadership role in the Carpet America Recovery Effort through its sponsorship and support, and their investment in Evergreen and other carpet recycling initiatives has taken our industry’s approach and commitment to carpet recycling to a new level.”

The only commercial nylon depolymerization facility of its kind, Evergreen is used to recover caprolactam, the monomer or “building block” of Type 6 Nylon fiber, from reclaimed post-consumer carpet. The recovered caprolactam is then remanufactured into new Type 6 Nylon fiber made available as Anso® and Eco Solution Q® – Shaw’s two premium branded Cradle to Cradle Type 6 Nylon fibers. Both Anso and Eco Solution Q can be recycled back into new fiber again and again, according to Ramirez.

The “co-product” from the Evergreen process is also post-consumer recycled content in Shaw’s Cradle to Cradle Certified EcoWorx® commercial carpet tile, broadloom, and performance broadloom backing systems.

“Evergreen has made a huge contribution towards accelerating the pace of carpet recycling and is a model for the rest of the nation,” said John Cross, Chief of the Municipal Source Reduction Branch in EPA's Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery and EPA representative to CARE. “As the EPA and other national and international organizations look for ways to advance resource conservation and materials recovery and recycling, Evergreen stands as an innovative and effective example for diverting landfill waste, saving energy, reducing raw materials consumption and reutilizing valuable resources.”

“Taking responsibility for our products at the end of their useful lives through a variety of innovative reclamation and recycling avenues is a fundamental part of our commitment to Sustainability Through Innovation,” stated Vance Bell, CEO, Shaw Industries.

“We are dedicated to supporting our customers’ growing interest in materials management, waste recovery and waste recycling by continuing to invest in the expansion of our post-consumer carpet recycling program through new energy recovery and recycling processes in the coming year,” Bell said.

[Click here for a short video about the about the Evergreen Type 6 Nylon recycling process.](#)

For the first time in its history, a second EPA/CARE Innovations in Carpet Recycling award was given to LA Fibers/Reliance for their post-consumer recycling activities and recycled carpet pad products. Mohawk Industries received the annual CARE Large Recycler of the Year award for recycling 15 million pounds of post-consumer carpet through its GreenWorks program. Universal Fibers’ Brendan McSheehy received the CARE Person of the Year award. CARE reported that 292.4 million pounds of post consumer carpet was diverted from landfill in 2008, with 243.4 being recycled.

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### **About the Shaw Green Edge**

Sustainability through Innovation™ That's the Shaw Green Edge®. It's our commitment to create the most beautiful – and sustainable – flooring in the world. And to help create a better planet for our customers, our people and our communities in the process.

Rooted in our drive to continuously improve every aspect of our business, the Shaw Green Edge guides everything we do, every day – from maintaining the highest ethical standards to safeguarding the health and well-being of our people and our communities, to conserving energy and water and recycling raw materials, to designing cradle to cradle products that can be remanufactured over and over again.

Because setting the standard for environmental excellence, social responsibility and product design is more than our responsibility. It's also good business. And it's our legacy.

### **About Shaw Industries**

Shaw Industries Group, Inc., a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway, Inc., is the world's largest carpet manufacturer and a leading floor covering provider with more than \$5 billion in annual sales and approximately 29,000 associates. Headquartered in Dalton, Ga., the company manufactures and distributes carpeting, rugs, hardwood, laminate and ceramic tile for residential and commercial product applications worldwide. A recognized leader in environmental stewardship, Shaw has implemented hundreds of sustainability initiatives and cradle to cradle design solutions collectively termed the Shaw Green Edge. For more information, visit [www.shawgreenedge.com](http://www.shawgreenedge.com).